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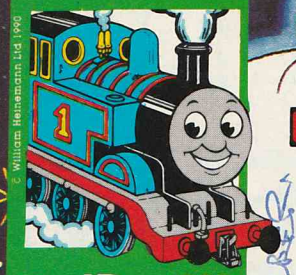

22nd Dec. 1990
No. 83 50p

THOMAS THE TANK ENGINE & FRIENDS

Based on The Railway Series by The Rev. W. Awdry

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Peep! Peep! Merry Christmas!

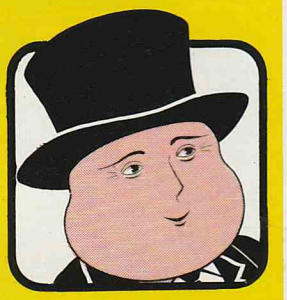
THE THOMAS CLUB PAGE

Peep! Peep! It was drawing near to Christmas on the Island of Sodor. The weather was becoming very cold and snow had covered almost everything! The engines were busier than ever too, pulling extra passenger and post trains! There was even a Christmas Pantomime to be held in the Church Hall! But among all this festive excitement, Trevor the Traction Engine was feeling very sad! You can find out why, when you read the story that begins on the next page! Peep! Peep!

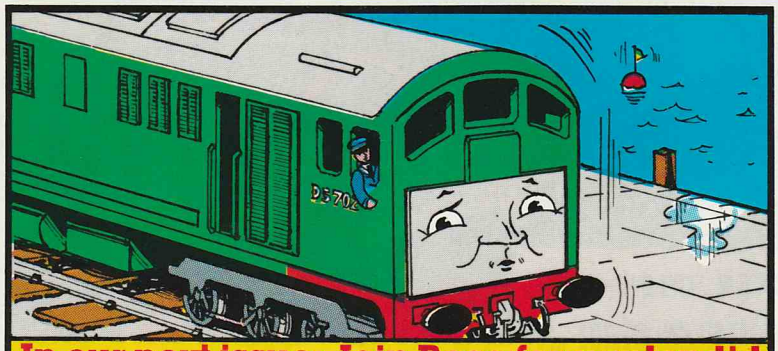
CHRISTMAS GREETINGS!

In this festive issue, the Fat Controller would like to say a special hello to the following readers. . .

George Medland (28686), Patrick Plummer, aged 3, **Mark Tiddy**, aged 3, **Karen Durie (34263), Alexander Wilkinson**, aged 6 and **Christopher Richards (34110).**



If you would like to receive a special mention on this page, please send your details to the Fat Controller at the address shown on the letters page. Don't forget to include your membership number too!



In our next issue: Join Boco for a splendid adventure in the Big Harbour!

MEMBERSHIP CARDS

If you would like to become a member of the **Thomas Club** and receive a splendid membership card, just collect 3 tokens like the one at the bottom of this page! Send one **red, yellow** and **green** token together with a stamped addressed envelope, to: *Thomas Membership Cards, Marvel Comics Ltd, 13-15 Arundel Street, London WC2.*

THOMAS TOKEN

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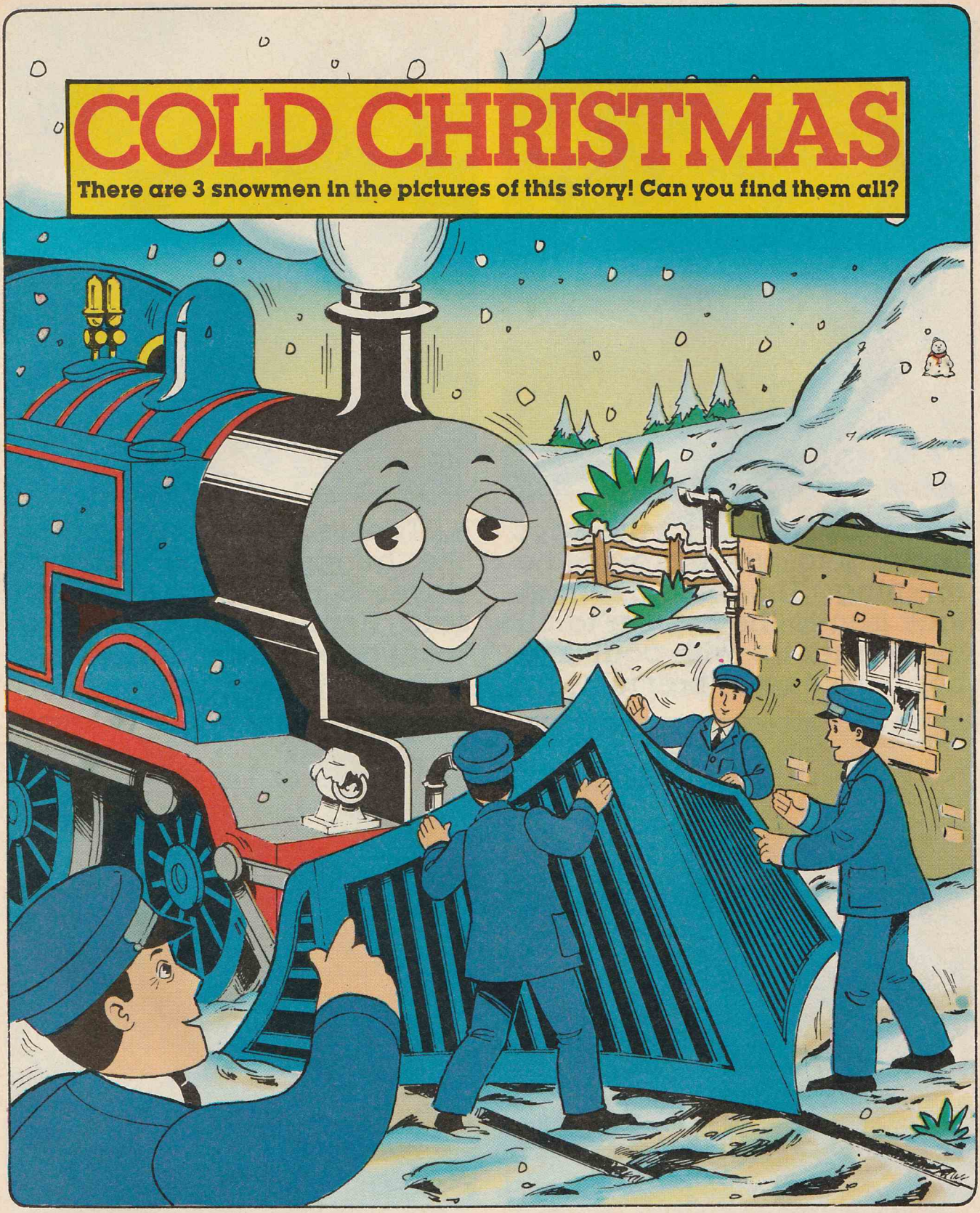
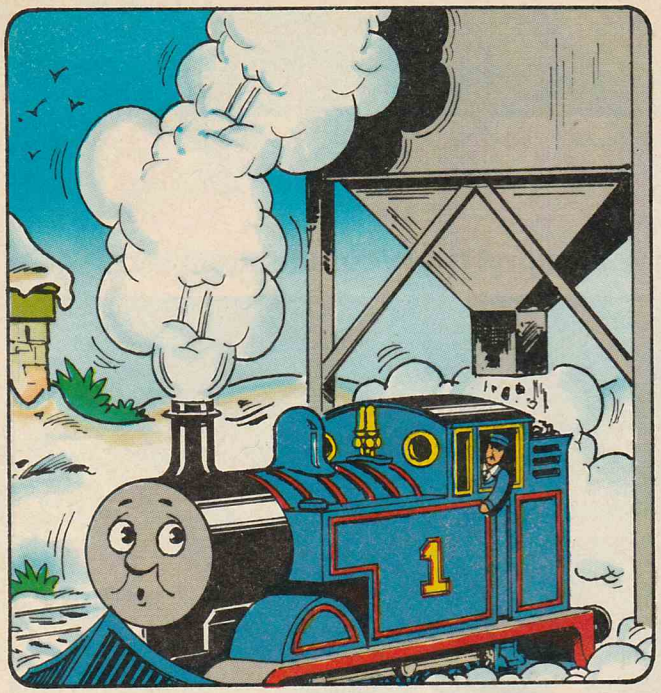
A listen and look story!

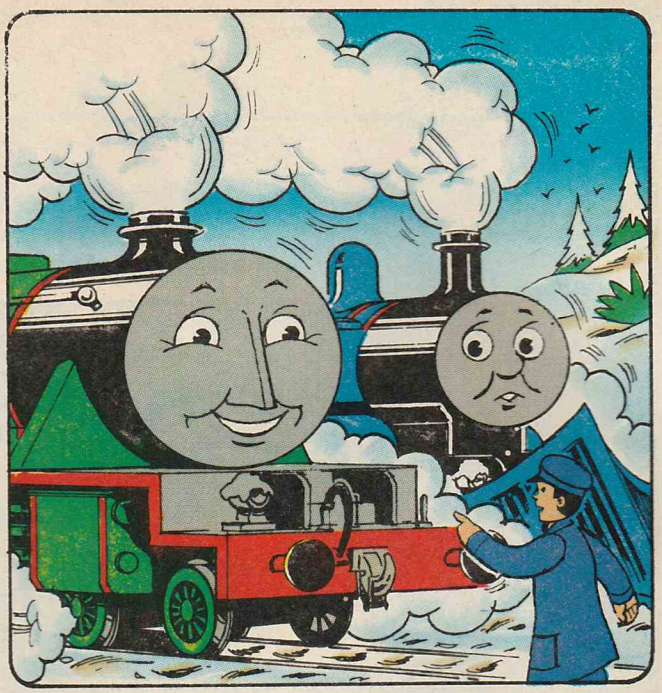


1. The weather was becoming very cold on the Island of Sodor. It had been frosty in the night, and snow had begun to fall. In the morning everything was white.

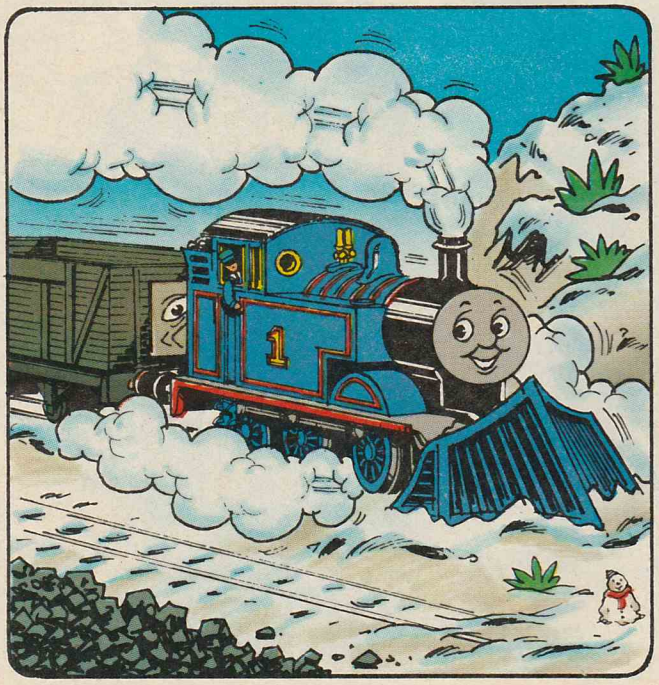
2. "You will have to wear your snow plough, Thomas," said the Fat Controller. Thomas didn't much care for his snow plough, but it stopped him from getting stuck in the snow.



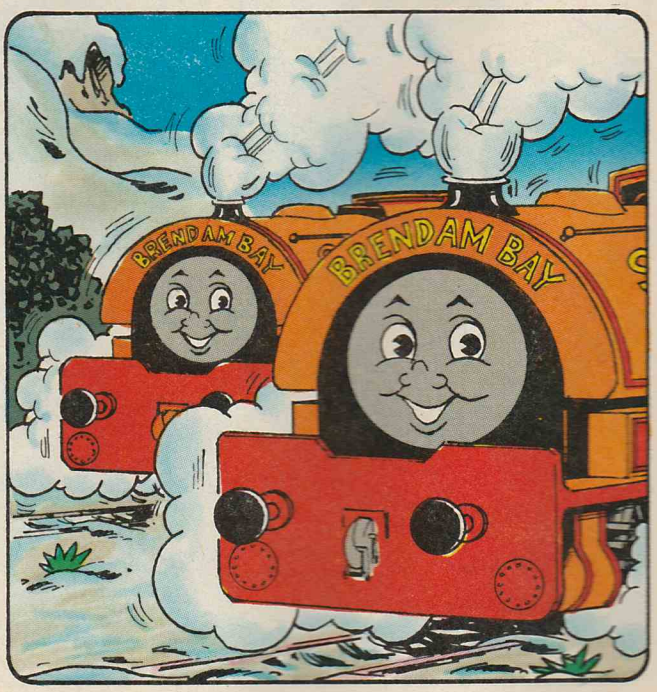
3. It took a long time for Thomas to warm up in the morning. Then the fireman took him to the hopper to fill his bunker up with coal. The hopper was only half full!



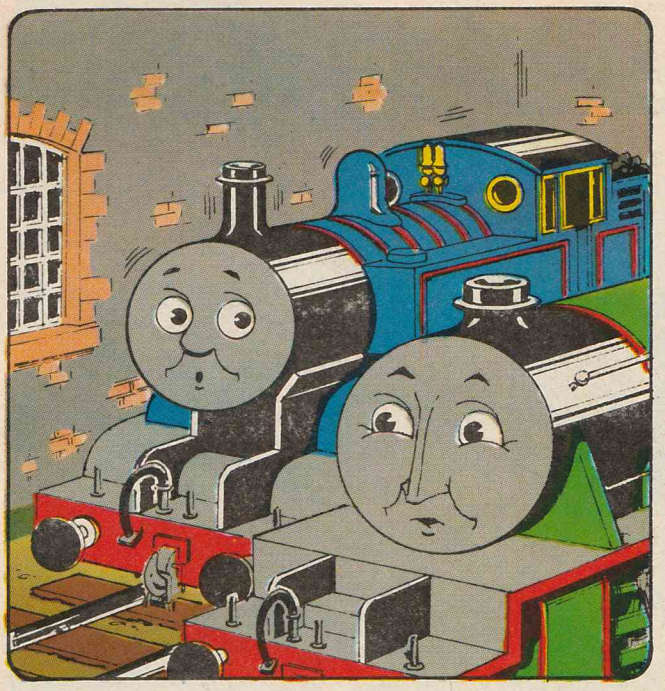
4. "There's not much coal in the hopper," said Thomas's driver to Henry. "Don't worry," said Henry. "There's a shipment due in today. I'm going to the harbour to collect it!"



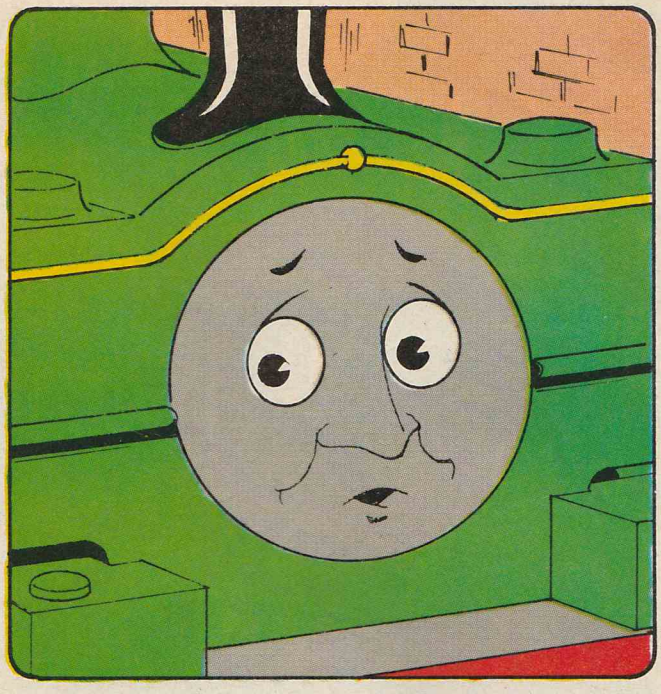
5. Thomas was taking some empty trucks to the clay pits for Bill and Ben. "Peep! Peep!" whistled Thomas. "Hullo, Bill! Hullo, Ben!" Then Thomas stopped suddenly!



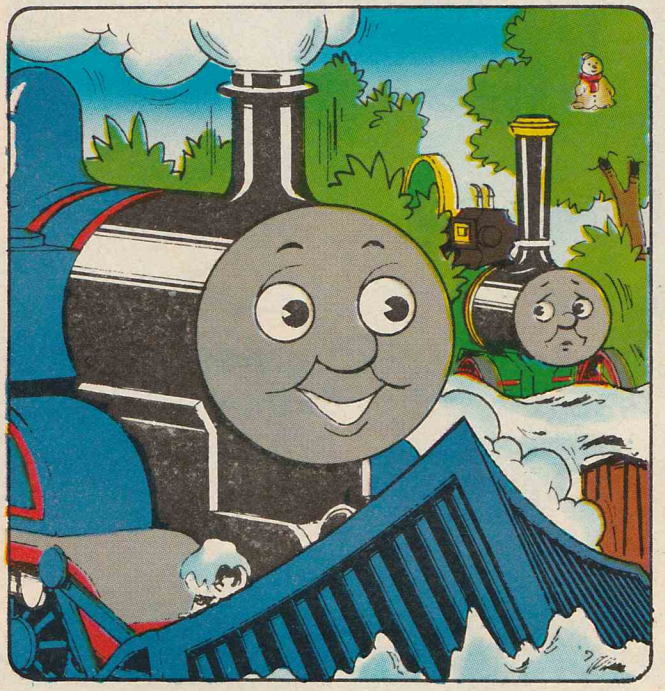
6. "You have a lot of coal!" said Thomas, seeing the huge heap by the siding. "Yes," said Bill. "It was a double delivery!" "Twice as much as usual for us," said Ben.



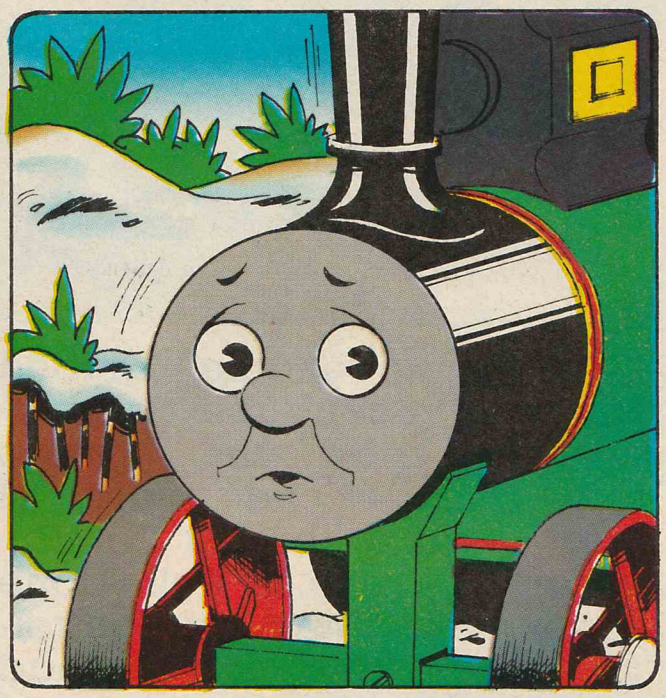
7. Thomas would soon need more coal in **his** bunker. That night in the shed Henry talked about the ship with the coal. "She was caught in a snow storm and had to turn back!"



8. "There might be fuel shortages on the Island of Sodor, this winter," sighed Duck. The next morning Thomas was passing Trevor in his Vicarage Orchard shed.



9. "Hullo, Trevor!" called Thomas. "Hullo," replied Trevor stiffly. "What's the matter?" asked Thomas. "It's the Christmas Pantomime tonight," sighed Trevor.



10. "What about the Christmas Pantomime?" asked Thomas. "It has been cancelled!" said Trevor. "There isn't any coal left to warm the church hall!"

11. "What a shame," sighed Thomas. Then he remembered. "I know where there's some coal!" he said. "I must speak to the Fat Controller right away." "Well done Thomas," said the Fat Controller when his driver had explained about the coal at the clay pits. "Percy can pull Annie and Clarabel, while Thomas collects the coal!"

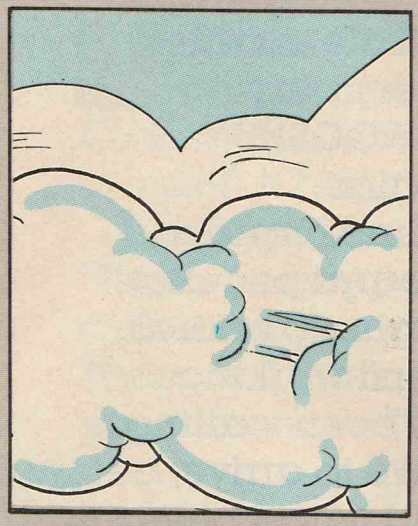
12. So Thomas hurried back to see Bill and Ben, who were more than happy to let Thomas take away a truck full of their coal. Thomas delivered it and that night the Christmas Pantomime went ahead as planned in the warm church hall. The children **were** delighted! The next day, the coal shipment arrived in the Big Harbour.

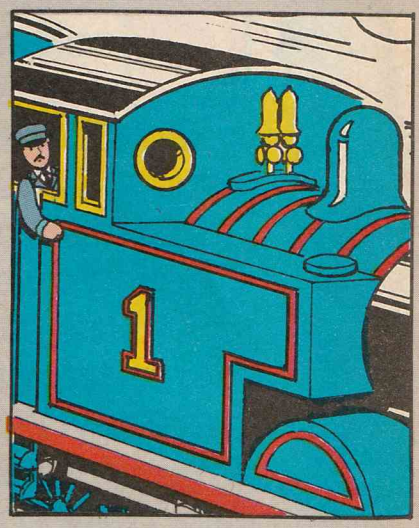
THE END

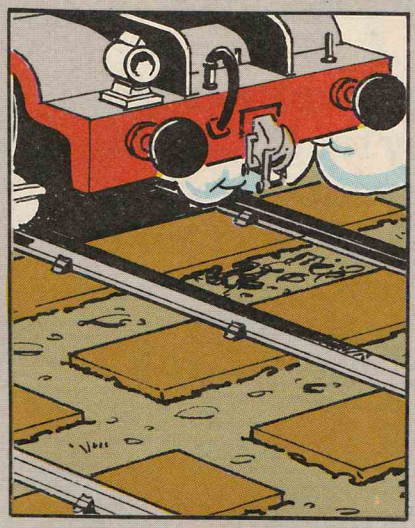
In our next issue: Lost!

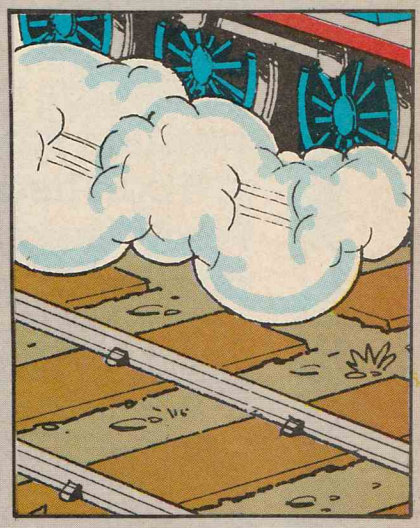
THE FAT CONTROLLER'S JIGSAW PUZZLE PAGE!

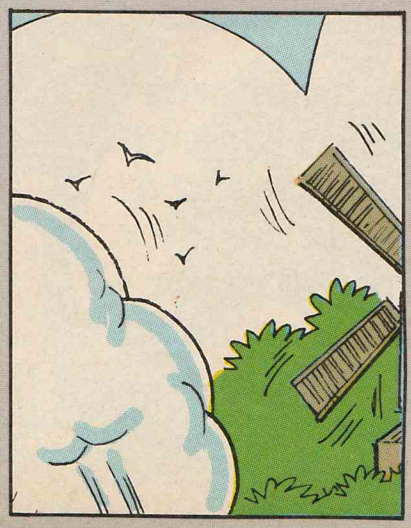
Here is a splendid jigsaw puzzle I have for you! All you have to do is ask a grown up to help you cut out the dotted section of this page and stick it onto some thin card (the back of an empty cereal box is ideal!) Next, carefully cut around each square illustrated section. Now you are all ready to piece together your jigsaw and make a Really Splendid Scene!

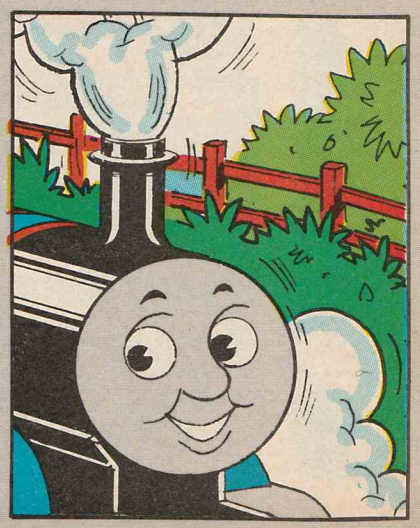












A read aloud story!

Thomas and

Christmas was coming, and all the engines were very busy.

"PWEESH, PWOOSH!" whistled Thomas.

"Goodness me," laughed Percy. "You sound peculiar!"

"I know," sighed Thomas. "My whistle isn't working properly! I've been waiting for a new valve to arrive, but my driver said it had been delayed in the Christmas post!"

"I'm sure it will arrive soon," whistled Percy loudly.

"I can hear your whistle, Percy," said Thomas. "There's no need to peep so loudly."

parcel

The Fat Controller was getting ready to visit the mainland to attend a Railway dinner. In the evening, he arrived at the shed to see all the engines. His arms were full with parcels.

"I have been last minute Christmas shopping. I have gifts for my colleagues on the mainland," he explained to the engines. "Well. . . my ship is sailing at six o'clock, so Happy Christmas to you all!"

"Thank you, sir," the engines chorused. "Happy Christmas, sir!"

Then the Fat Controller went off in Gordon's Express.

"Hurry, hurry, hurry!" cried Gordon.

Then Thomas noticed a parcel in front of the shed.

"Look!" cried Thomas. "The Fat Controller has left one of his parcels!"

"It's probably meant for someone at the dinner tonight," said Henry.

"Oh, dear!" sighed Thomas. "Perhaps if I hurry to the harbour I can get it to him!"

So Thomas's driver picked up the parcel and Thomas rushed away towards the Big Harbour.

"Hurry, hurry, hurry," cried Thomas.

d the Parcel!

When Thomas reached the harbour, the Fat Controller was just boarding the ship.

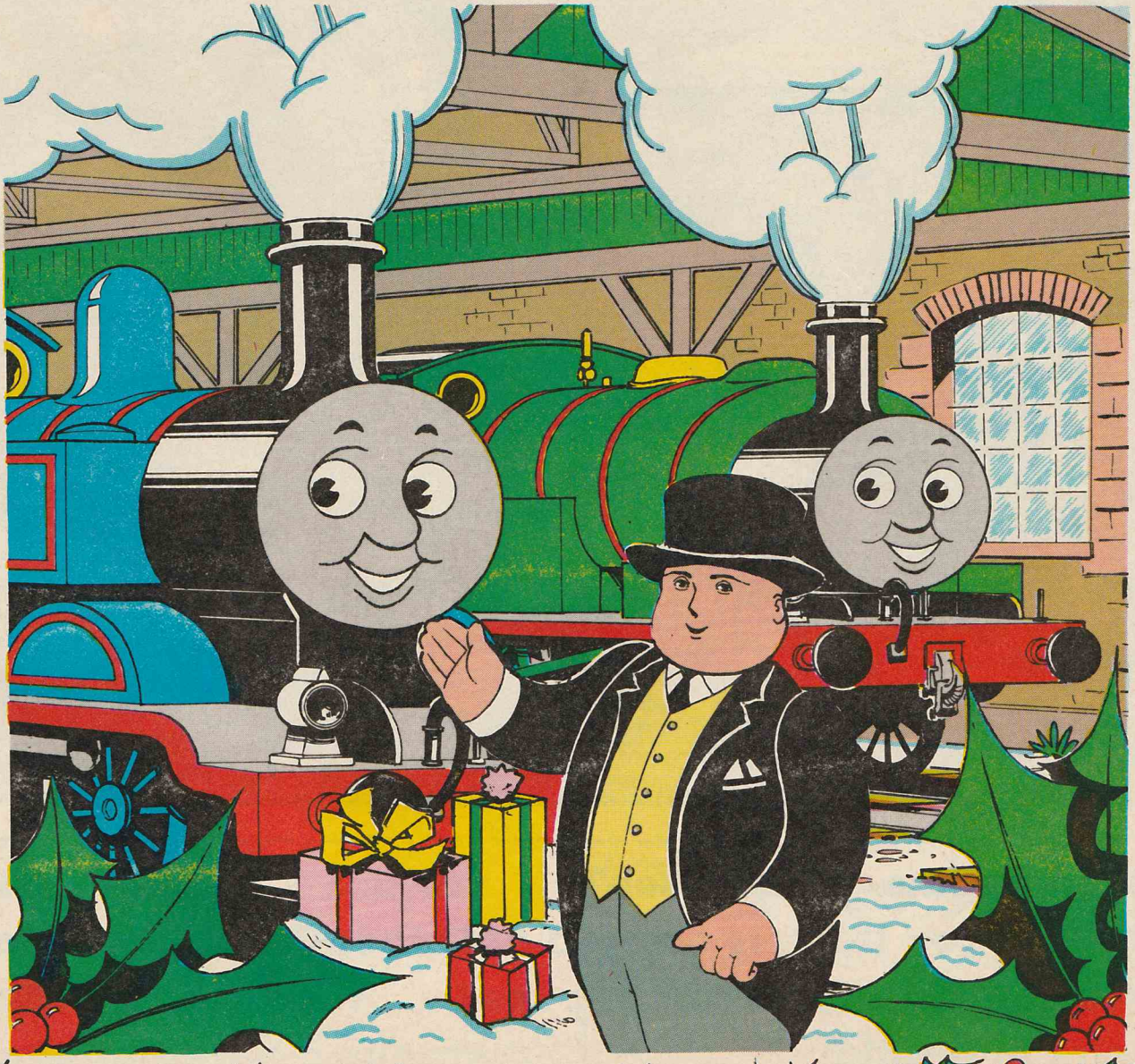
"PWEESH, PWOOSH!" whistled Thomas, urgently.

"Thomas!" said the Fat Controller. "What are you doing here?"

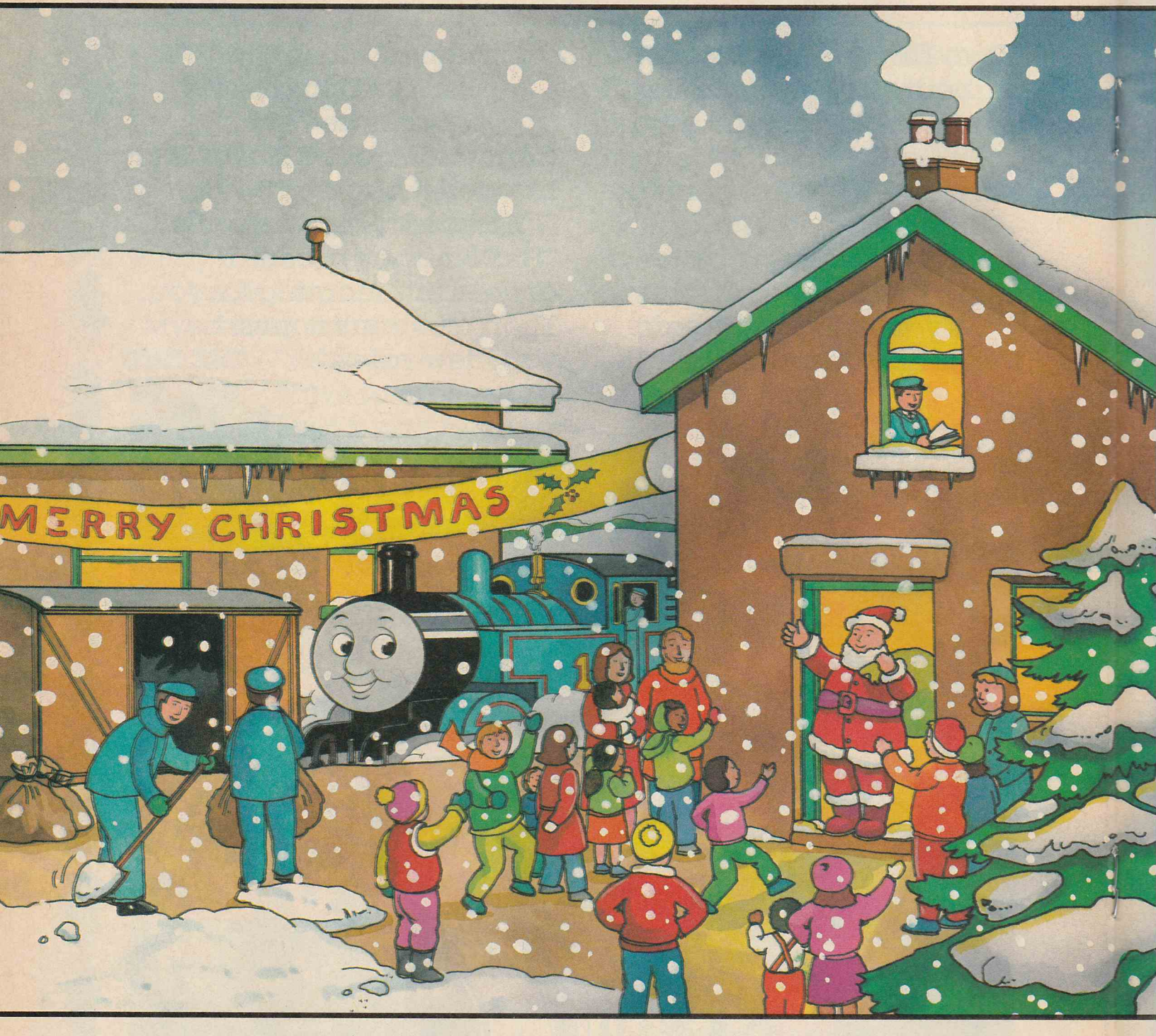
"It's your parcel, sir," said Thomas. "You forgot it, sir."

Thomas's driver handed the Fat Controller his parcel. The Fat Controller looked it over and handed it back.

"Oh, deary me," he smiled. "That's not **my** parcel. It arrived this morning for you, Thomas. I think it must be your new valve!" **THE END**



It's Christm



What engine can you see?

Who do you think is dressed as Father Christmas?

How many fir trees can you see?

Point to Harold!

Why does

How many

How many

Point to so

nas!

does the guard need a shovel?

many people are waving?

many sacks can you see?

to someone throwing a snowball!

Note for parents

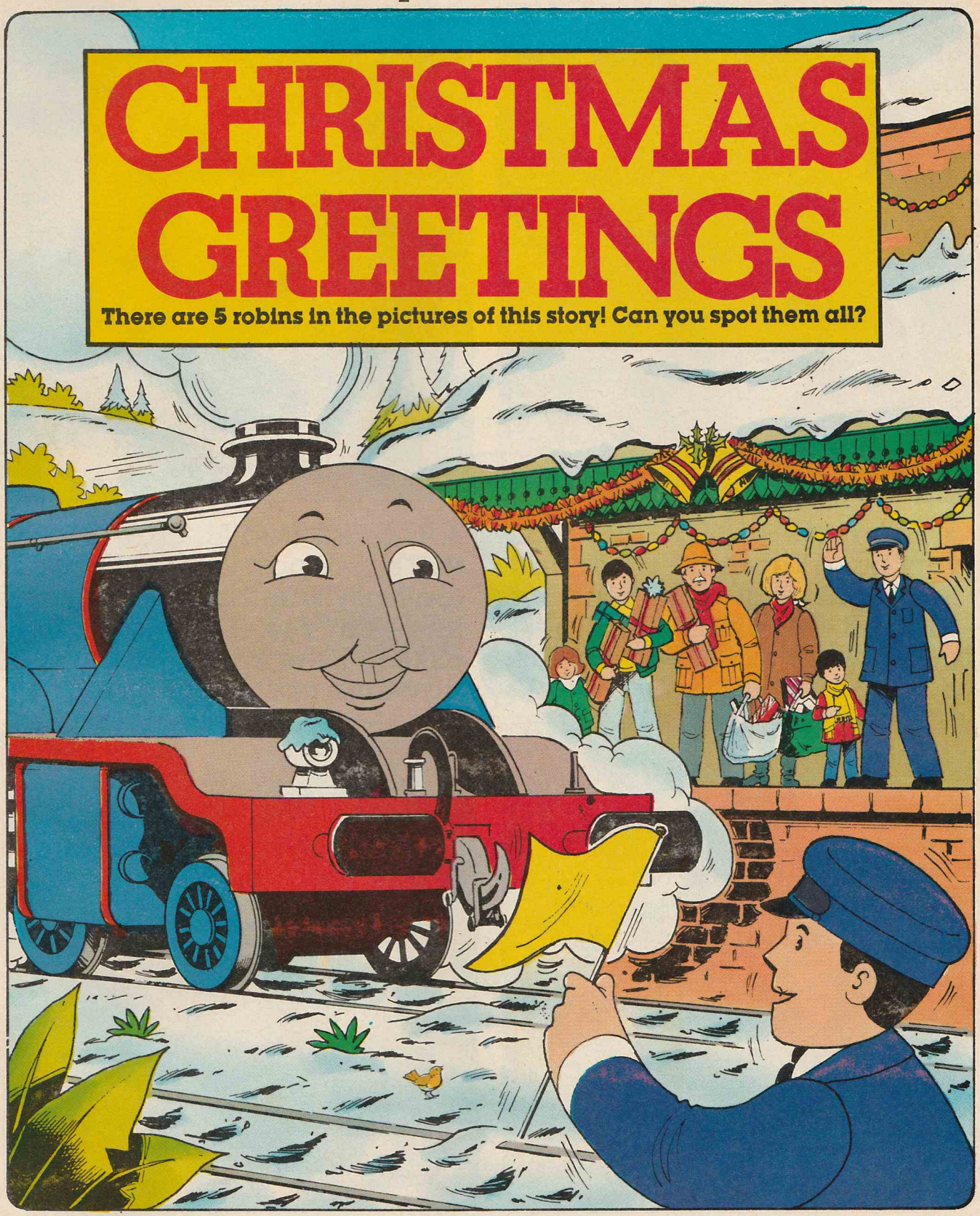
This page is designed to form part of a colourful mural for your child's bedroom, playgroup or classroom. After you have finished reading the comic with your child, remove this part of the centrespread by cutting along the dotted line. There will be a 'mural page' in every issue of **Thomas the Tank Engine & Friends.** Why not collect each one and watch Thomas and his friends puff all round the room!

Next issue: Heading for New Year!

JOIN THE DOTS!

What are these passengers holding? Join the dots and see! Next join up the letters and find something Christmassy!

A listen and look story!



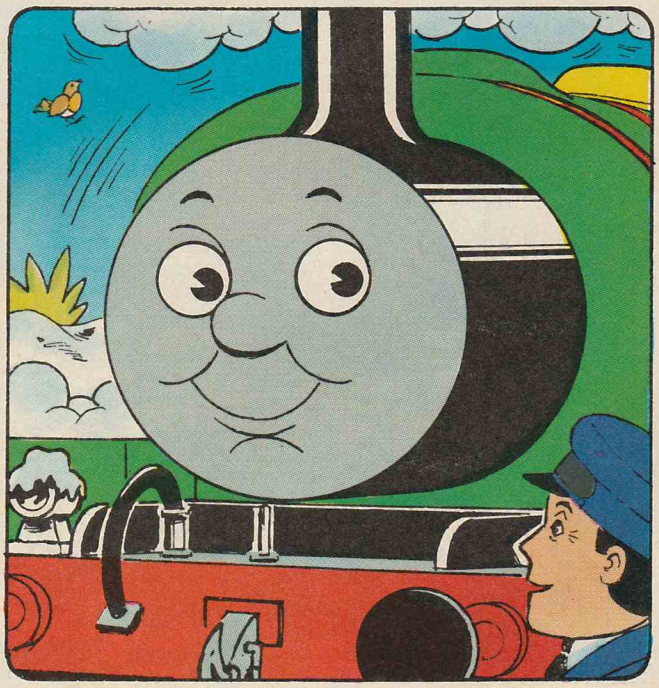
1. It was drawing near to Christmas on the Island of Sodor. Everyone was making preparations for the festive season. Decorations were put up all around each station.

2. The engines had to work extra hard. The passengers all seemed to be in such a hurry. Everybody was rushing to and from the towns with heavy bags of shopping.

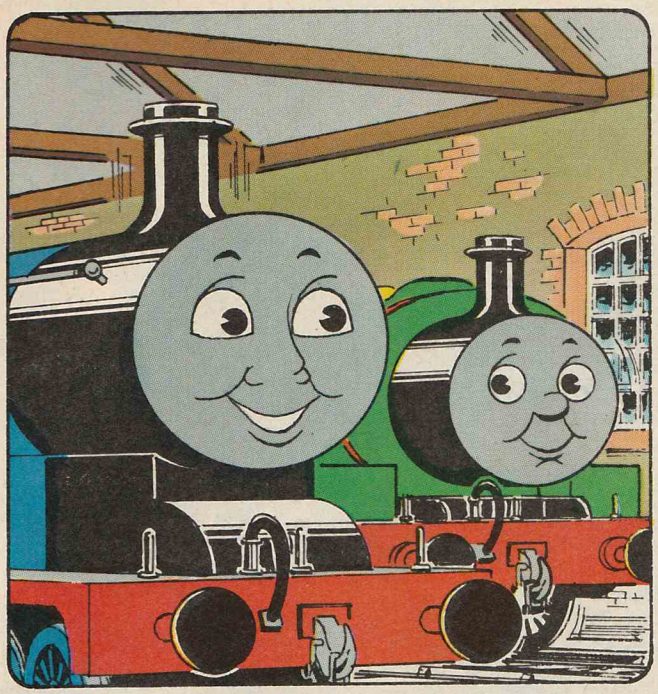
3. Thomas's branch line was very busy. Thomas had to pull the night post train too! But with all the extra mail, post trains were arranged for the daytime as well!

4. Thomas had no time to pull the extra post trains, he was too busy with his **own** branch line. So the Fat Controller asked Edward to take the day-time post trains instead.

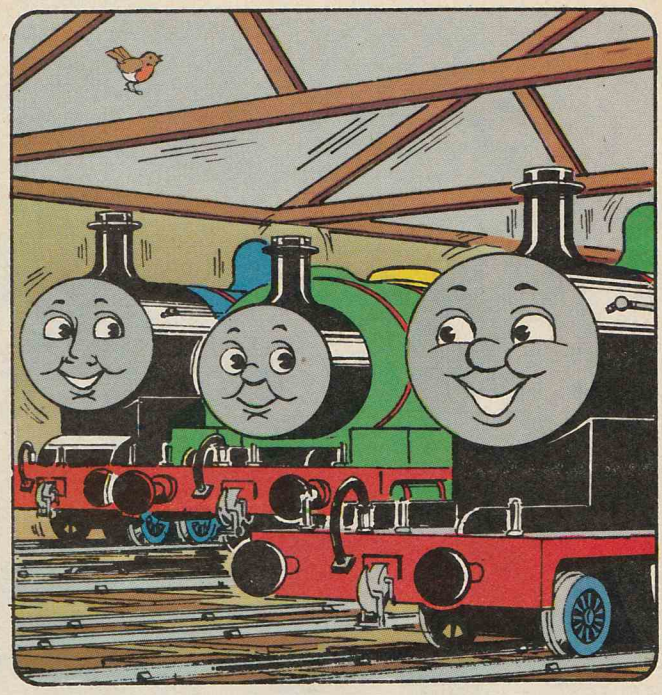
5. More and more cards and parcels were arriving every day from the mainland. When it was too much for Edward alone, the Fat Controller asked Percy to help as well!



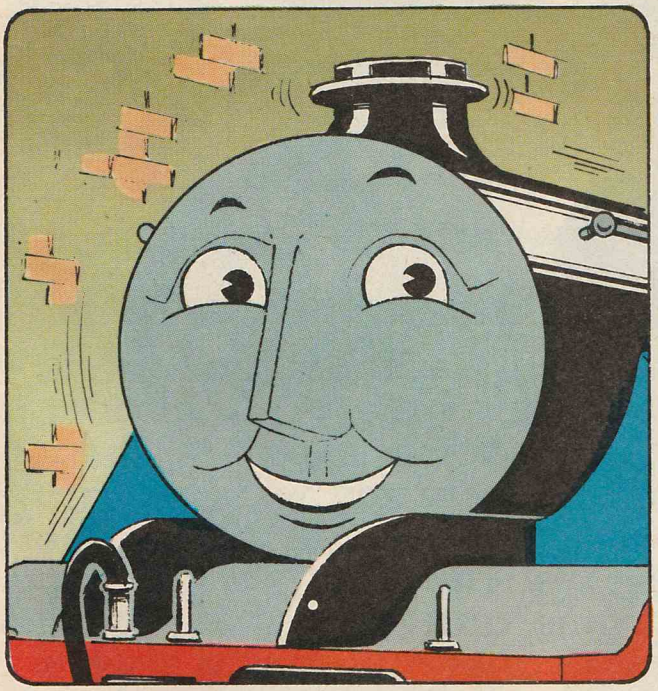
6. "Have you seen how many Christmas cards the Fat Controller is getting?" laughed Percy's driver. "I brought him nearly a whole sack full again this afternoon!"



7. People don't usually send Christmas cards to steam engines. But Edward and Percy agreed that it would be nice if they could receive some cards too!

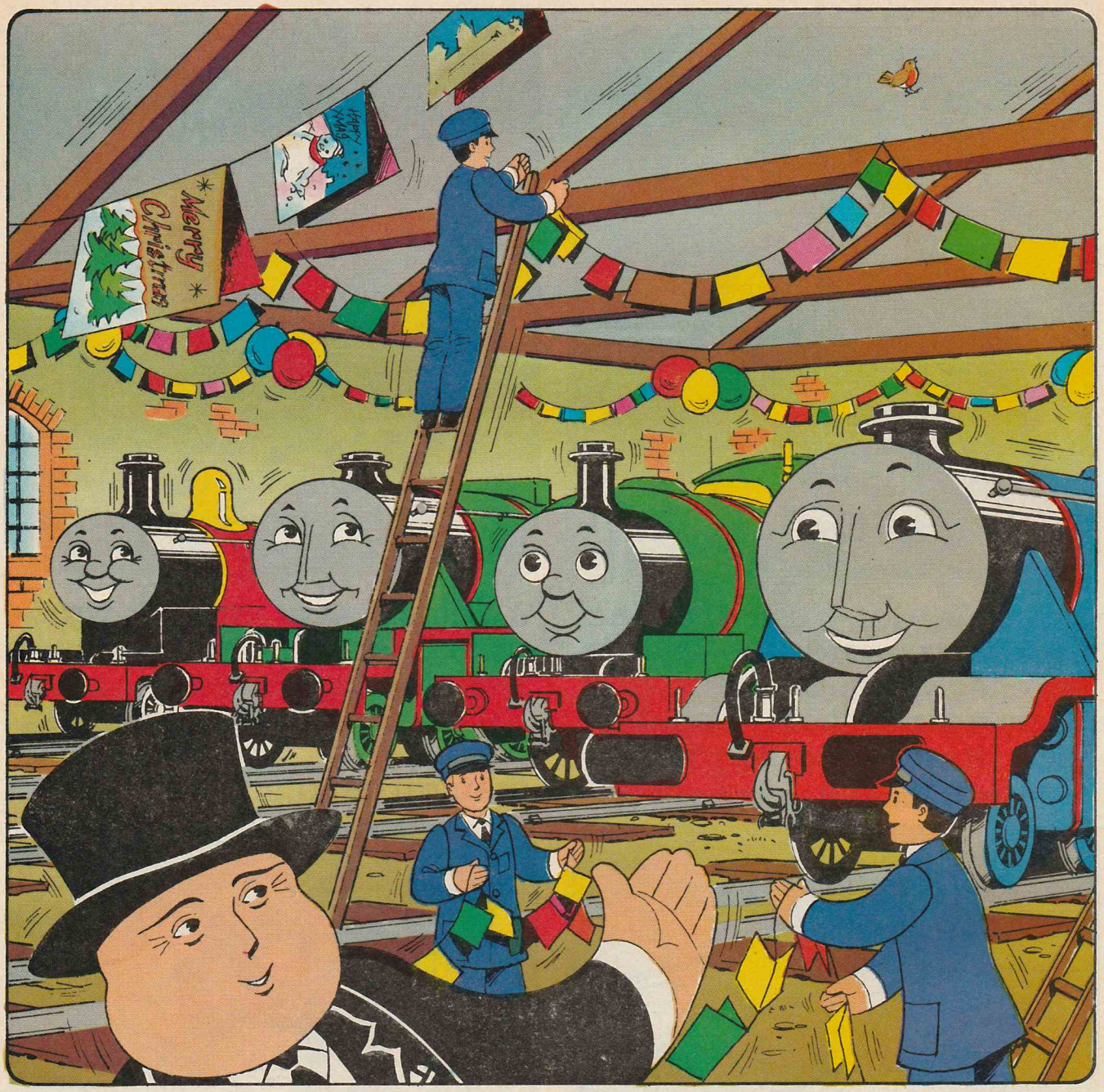


8. Later, Percy and Edward asked James if he had ever received a Christmas card. "Of course I haven't!" replied James. "But my driver and fireman get plenty."



9. Gordon interrupted. "Last year my driver decorated **my** cab with his Christmas cards. It made me feel very festive. Passengers on the platform liked to see my decorations!"

10. The next day, Percy and Edward told their drivers about Gordon's idea. "That's a good idea," laughed their drivers, and agreed to decorate their cabs with cards!



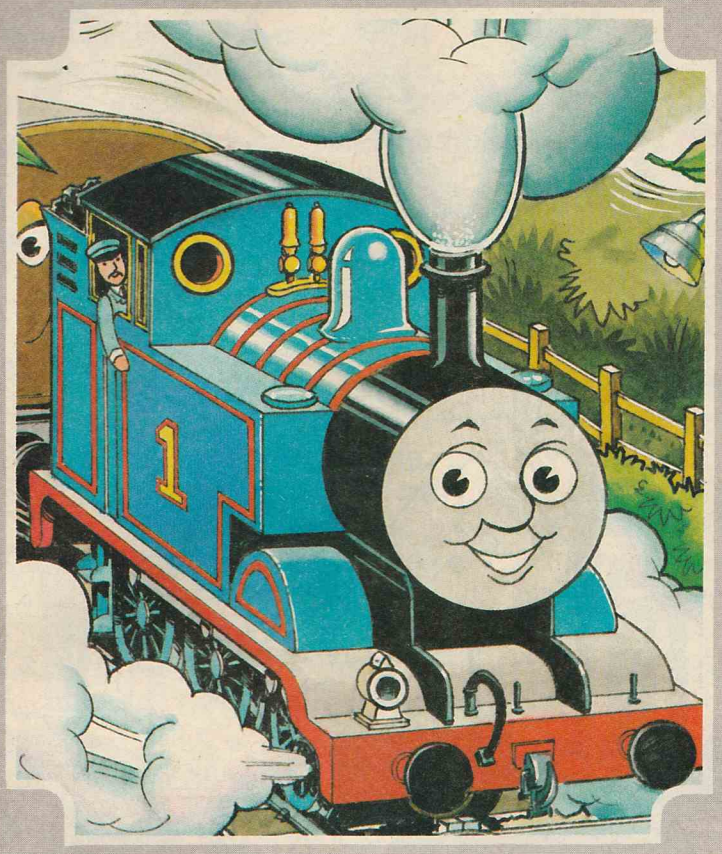
11. Later that day, Percy was taking another Christmas Post delivery to the Fat Controller's office. The Fat Controller came out to meet the train. "It is most splendid to receive all these cards," he explained to the driver, "but I have no room left in my office to hang them. I can't even look through my window because of the cards . . . and that will never do!"

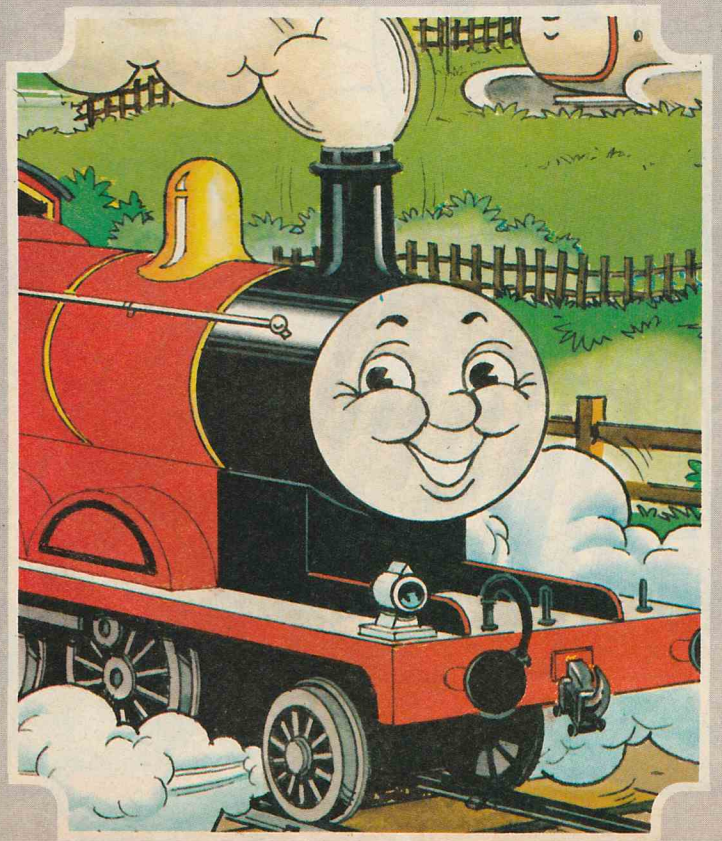
12. "But I have an idea!" continued the Fat Controller. "Take down some of these cards from my window and hang them up in the engine sheds. The engines pull the trains and do all the hard work after all!" So that is what the men did! The engines were very excited when they saw all the cards hanging in **their** shed.

THE END

In our next issue: The Sermon!

Subscribe...





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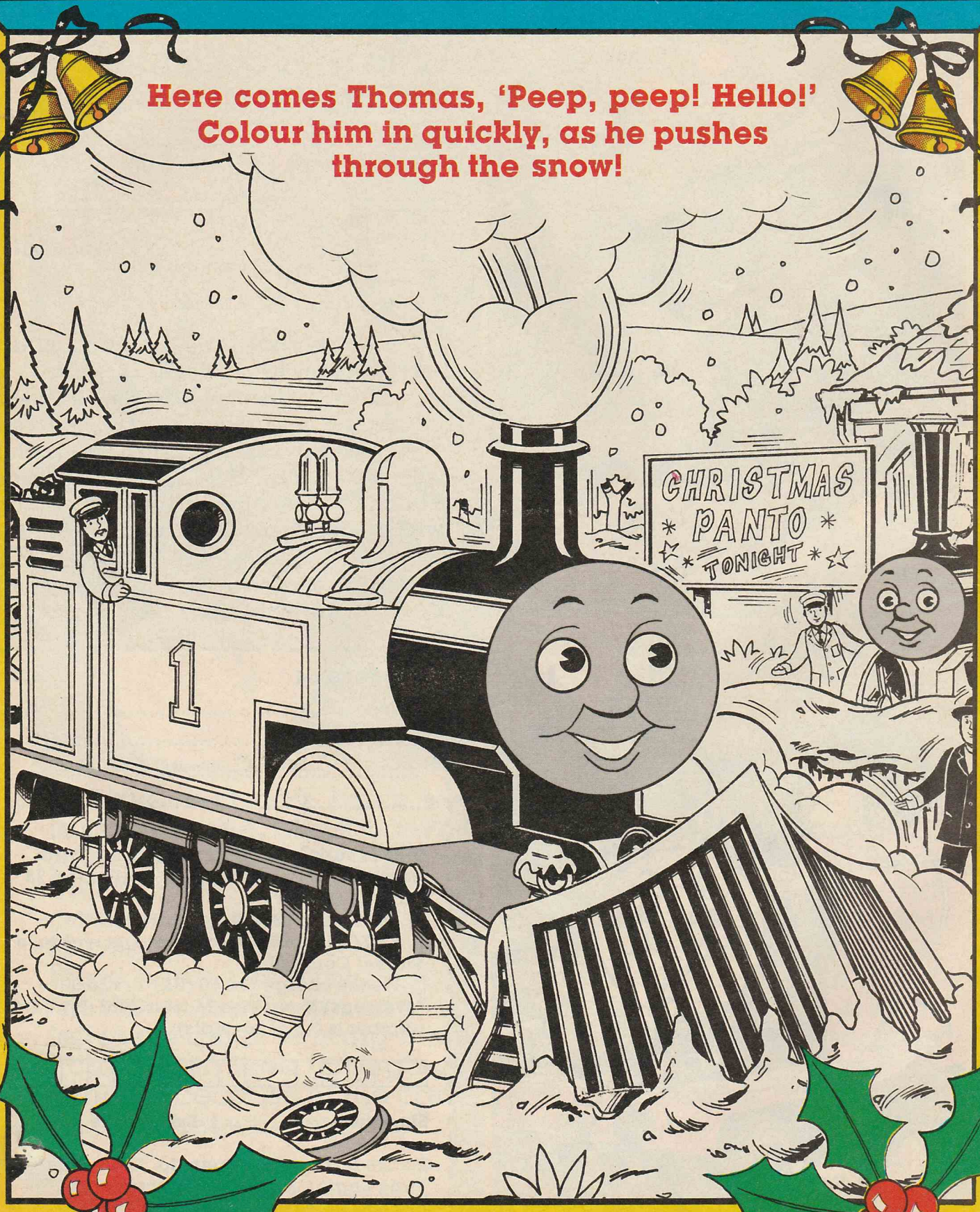
Signature ..... **Expiry date** .....

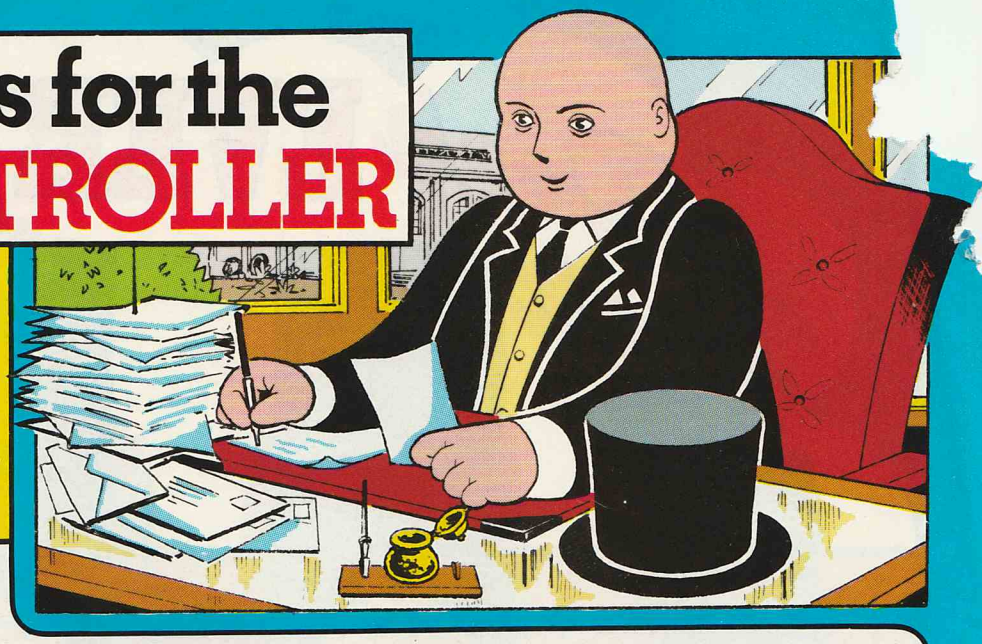
Return form and payment to: *Thomas the Tank Engine & Friends Subscriptions, PO Box 500, Leicester, LE99 0AB.*

COLOURING TIME!

**Here comes Thomas, 'Peep, peep! Hello!'
Colour him in quickly, as he pushes
through the snow!**



Your letters for the FAT CONTROLLER



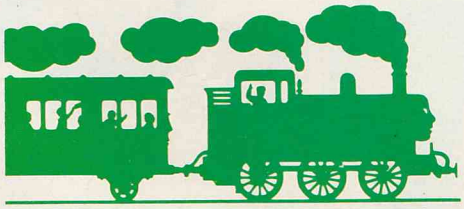
Have you got an amusing story to tell? Do you have a question you would like to ask about Thomas or his friends? If so, then write to me at the address shown below! I would be so very pleased to hear from you!

STAR LETTER!

Dear Fat Controller,
Me and my little brother, Ralph, like to play **Thomas the Tank Engine**. Ralph always wants to be Thomas and Mummy is always James. I prefer to be a different engine each time we play, because I like them all!

Lots of love from **William**, aged 4.

Upon my soul! *Just like my engines, I am sure that you must all have lots of splendid adventures together!*



The sender of any letter that is printed as our **STAR LETTER** will win a splendid **Thomas the Tank lunchbox and flask** – from *Bluebird Toys (UK) Ltd.*

CHRISTMAS TREAT!

Dear Fat Controller,
Last Christmas I went with my mummy, daddy and my little brother, Sam, to the Kent and East Sussex Railway at Tenterton. We had a ride on a train and Father Christmas gave us all presents! It was great fun!

Love from **Adam**, aged 4.

Goodness me. . . it does sound as if you had a very exciting time indeed! I do hope that the presents you received from Father Christmas was to your liking, too!

PEEP! PEEP!

Dear Fat Controller,
Why does Thomas the Tank Engine blow his whistle when he approaches the stations?

From **Bradly**, aged 4.

Thomas blows his whistle to warn his passengers that he is nearing the station and for them not to stand too close to the edge of the platform! He also likes the passengers to give him a friendly wave and blowing his whistle is a very good way of gaining their attention!

BIRTHDAYS!

Claire Chillingworth, Sean Walsh (26400), Martin O'Shea, Terry White, Linda Lovelace, Matthew Green (32373), Thomas Hannam, Andrea Tapling, Jason Linsdell (15952), Howard Johnson (25491), Kristin Martin (31692), Toryn James Kershaw, Rebecca Worsell, William Hughes, Jonathon Pinney (32787), Thomas Kerin (29046), Nicholas James Hawkiswell (29955), Steven Curtis, Christopher Richards (34110), Edward Ball, Karen Elizabeth Durie (34263), Anthony Wood, Christopher Blacker (4509), Allan Barry Whatmouth (30627), Daniel Thacker, Jade Gregory, Neal Allen (8338), Thomas Price (1096), Robert Goatcher (21313), Ian Chandler (26278).

If you would like a birthday mention here, just send details on a postcard, at least **9 weeks in advance**. We cannot promise to print all the birthdays, but we will do our very best.

Yours,

Sir Topham Hatt.

the Fat Controller.

Send your letters to:

The Fat Controller
The Island of Sodor
c/o Marvel Comics Ltd
13/15 Arundel Street
London WC2.

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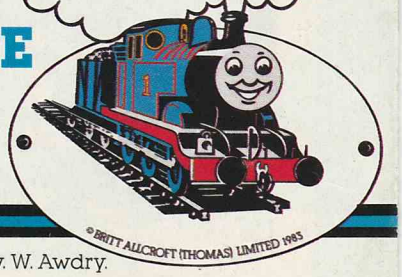

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